National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Environmental change and the dynamics of parasitic diseases in the Amazon

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Abstract:

The Amazonian environment is changing rapidly, due to deforestation, in the short term, and, climatic change is projected to alter its forest cover, in the next few decades. These modifications to the, environment have been altering the dynamics of infectious diseases which have natural foci in the, Amazonian biome, especially in its forest. Current land use practices which are changing the, epidemiological profile of the parasitic diseases in the region are road building; logging; mining; expansion of agriculture and cattle ranching and the building of large dams. Malaria and the cutaneous, leishmaniasis are the diseases best known for their rapid changes in response to environmental, modifications. Others such as soil-transmitted helminthiases, filarial infections and toxoplasmosis, which have part of their developmental cycles in the biophysical environment, are also expected to, change rapidly. An interdisciplinary approach and an integrated, international surveillance are needed, to manage the environmentally-driven changes in the Amazonian parasitic diseases in the near future.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Ecosystem Changes

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Freshwater, Tropical, Other Geographical Feature

Other Geographical Feature : forest

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Central/South America

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Helminthiases, Schistosomiasis

Vectorborne Disease: Fly-borne Disease, Mosquito-borne Disease

Fly-borne Disease: General Fly-borne Disease, Leishmaniasis, Onchocerciasis, Trypanosomiasis

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified